Good Practices Exchange in Caribbean Youth Policies and Programs - Inter-sectoral Aspects of Youth Development

Community, Family and Youth Resilience (CFYR) Program
• How social policy is developed and implemented in the Caribbean is critical to the success or failure of youth development:

 – In the Caribbean, six out of every ten citizens are below the age of 30
PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE

• It is 23 years since the UN’s World Programme of Action for Youth & 20 years since the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes

• The Caribbean Millennium Goals 2010 Report indicates – among other areas - progress towards – universal primary education, child survival rates, maternal health goals, combating HIV and AIDS, and in the usage of ICT
SIGNIFICANT ISSUES REMAIN

• **Poverty** among youth is greater than in the general population (UN Regional Overview: Youth in LAC)

• **Unemployment** average youth unemployment rate above that of adults (IMF World Development Indicators)

• **Teen pregnancy** – LAC remains the region with the second highest rates of adolescent pregnancy. The profile of maternal deaths showing a higher concentration of adolescents (PAHO, UNICEF & UNFPA Report 2017)

• **Crime and violence** – in 2017, five Caribbean countries were in the top 10 countries with the highest levels of homicides in the world. 50% of homicide victims across the Caribbean are younger than 30 (IGARAPE Institute Homicide Monitor)

• **Poor educational outcomes** (CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan (CYDAP) Draft 2012–2017)

• **Alienation and frustration** (CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan (CYDAP) 2012–2017)
SIGNIFICANT ISSUES REMAIN (Cont’d)

  - Poor data
  - Poor coordination and agency competition
  - High level political distance from implementation teams
  - Misaligned funding arrangements

Growth and homicides
Murder rates in the Caribbean remain high and growth has been anemic.
(growth rate, percent)

Sources: World Development Indicators and IMF staff calculations.
USAID’s Community, Family and Youth Resilience (CFYR) Program

- Working in Saint Lucia, Guyana and St. Kitts and Nevis to build youth resilience to respond to growing levels of crime and violence
- Applying a public health model that matches interventions based on level of risk
- Working in 15 communities, with youth focus on those aged 10 – 29
- Youth most-at-risk for violence and risky behavior will receive targeted counseling to lower risk factors
USAID’s Community, Family and Youth Resilience (CFYR) Program: Integrated Social Policy Approach

• Main aim - **Violence Prevention**

  However, recognizing in its design the interconnectivity to other social issues, levels of risk affecting youth (Poverty, low education levels, unemployment, health, culture, gender norms) and protective factors

  – Comprehensive approach - strengthen abilities and possibilities as well as treat with major deficits

    – Universal services to build abilities and resilience - Primary

    – Targeted services for those youth more exposed to risks - Secondary

    – Administrative reform to support reintegration for those youth who have become perpetrators and victims - Tertiary

    – Some differentiation to recognize different impact and required responses for girls/young women and for boys/young men
USAID’s Community, Family and Youth Resilience (CFYR) Program: Safer Communities, A Shared Responsibility

- Upfront, pursued symmetry with country government goals related to the area to reduce possibilities of duplication – increase possibilities for partnerships as well as for take up by the national governments
  - In St. Lucia, CFYR targeting in Central Castries took into consideration work to be done by the CDB in the same area

- Used available data and wide consultations at the policy, NGO and community levels to achieve consensus on the targeting of the program.
  - In Guyana, CSP in the top 30 communities for crime and violence; CFYR in the next 5 communities for crime and violence
• Drive coordinated action to facilitate connection to youth and community priorities:
  
  – Establish with host governments National Advisory Boards (NAB) chaired by high level government representative. Includes youth & community representation as well as other key MDAs

  – Facilitate community leadership – CECs – youth involved

  – Juvenile Justice Reform - promoted within framework of government commitments to reform juvenile justice system

  – Locate secondary prevention program in host government ministry as a randomized trial - if the theory of change is supported by the data, increases the chances for adoption and scale up

  – Support to host government aligned programming through grant funding (Summer camps, after-school, ICT programs, robotics, etc. as alternative curriculum)

  – Facilitate connection of relevant government programming to community safety and resilience building priorities (Qtly Networking, ICT Hub, Community Advocates Program)
USAID’s Community, Family and Youth Resilience (CFYR) Program: Data Driven Programming

- Disaggregated to the community-level national crime statistics & focus groups with different actors including youth and youth-serving organizations
- Community Baseline /Mid Program/End of program surveys
- Asset Maps
- Community Safety Plans
- Systematic data collection and analysis on each activity
USAID’s CFYR Program: Support Regional Efforts to Close Implementation Gap

• Caribbean countries have developed NYPs. There is also the CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan (CYDAP)

• They integrate responses to limiting risk factors, they affirm an assets based approach to youth development as well as promote youth agency and inclusion in creating the desired better futures

• Implementation issues, mentioned earlier, remain:
  – Poor data to inform policymaking and determine progress against goals
  – Poor coordination and agency competition
  – High-level political distance from the implementation teams
  – Misaligned funding arrangements
USAID’s CFYR PROGRAM:
Support Regional Efforts to Close Implementation Gap (Cont’d)

• Youth Crime and Violence Prevention Summit - January 2019
• Point of departure is CARICOM Crime Prevention & Social Development Action Plan
  – “…establish two virtual learning networks on violence prevention in August 2018, with regional youth leaders and policy makers, who will convene on a monthly basis to help draft a sustainable advocacy and action agenda on youth-centered violence prevention and aid its implementation through critical review and applied research.”
  – Emphasis on youth actors and youth-serving organizations
  – Add content to and validate Summit agenda
  – Youth leaders facilitate discussions
  – Establish Caribbean-wide and local youth networks that will be supported to act
Thank You

Community, Family and Youth Resilience (CFYR) Program